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Missionary's Parents Rejoice at His Release

Family Call Cuba's Spy Charges Against Arcadia Clergyman 'the Silliest Thing'

FREED—Floyd C. Woodworth Jr., a missionary, freed from Cuban prison.

The grateful parents of American missionary Floyd C. Woodworth Jr. thanked God for his release from a Cuban prison Tuesday and described espionage charges against him as "the silliest thing we ever heard of."

The Rev. and Mrs. Floyd C. Woodworth Sr. of 422 Santa Anita Rd., Arcadia, were almost speechless with excitement after receiving a telephone call from the State Department that their son had arrived safely from Cuba with dozens of other Americans released from prison.

Arrest Called 'Silly'

The Rev. Woodworth Jr. was publicly denounced as a Central Intelligence Agency spy by Cuban Premier Fidel Castro and jailed last March 13.

"His arrest was the silliest thing I ever heard of," said the father of the Assembly of God clergyman, who for 10 years separated from the church in Southern California.

The mother, Olga, said they had been unable to contact their son during his imprisonment, either through the Red Cross or the Swiss government, whose Havana embassy handles United States affairs in Cuba.

"But our government finally was able to send official certification through the Swiss government that Floyd was an agent for the CIA, that his work in Cuba was purely religious," she said.

College Confiscated

Mrs. Woodworth said the Cuban government confiscated an Assembly of God Bible college which her son headed in Cuba.

The elder Woodworth said he and his wife had waited "patiently and confidently" for their son's release and added:

"When you're a missionary, you've got to expect things like this."

The son's wife and two daughters also were arrested. [illegible] but they were released [illegible] and allowed to return to the [illegible] of being a [illegible]

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